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## GENERAL ANTI-SLAVERY CONVENTION.

REPORT ON THE EXTENT OF THE AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE WITH CUBA  
AND BRAZIL, READ TO THE DELEGATES.

THE victims of the African slave-trade, previously to its abolition by Great Britain, were estimated at 72,000 per annum. The destruction of human life connected with the capture of this vast mass of human beings, and their transit to the coast for sale, was computed at from 140,000 to 150,000. The loss sustained during the middle passage may be stated at 12 per cent. on those embarked. Those who perished during the first year of their bondage may be reckoned at as many more. It will then appear, that of the 72,000 shipped from Africa for the slave-markets in the western world, not more than 55,000 would be alive at the end of fourteen or fifteen months from the period of embarkation. No wonder that facts such as these excited the horror and nerved the resolution of the fathers of abolition in this country against the atrocious traffic, and finally enabled them to achieve a glorious triumph over the monster evil in the British legislature.

It was firmly believed that the termination of the slave-trade by Great Britain would have led to its general extinction by other powers, especially as the act for abolishing it, passed by the Congress of the United States in 1789, came into operation the same year (1807) that the British legislature passed its celebrated law for its extinction. Denmark and Sweden had previously issued edicts for its suppression, which prohibited the subjects of these states from prosecuting it after the year 1802. But the hope which had been cherished was doomed to disappointment: the slave-trade was checked for the moment, but not suppressed; for we find that in 1810 the number of slaves transported from Africa to Brazil and Cuba, amounted to 80,000, with the prospect of still further increase. The friends of Africa became alarmed, and were compelled to abandon their well-considered schemes for its civilization, upon which they had entered, and to direct their attention to more effectual measures for its suppression than at that time existed. Legislation at home and negotiation abroad were resorted to for that purpose, but in vain, as may be seen from the able work of Sir Fowell Buxton, "The Slave-trade and its Remedy." According to him, upon the most moderate computation, the slave-trade dooms to the horrors of slavery every year, among professedly Christian powers, 120,000 victims, and among Mohammedans 50,000; whilst in procuring them, there were annually destroyed 280,000 more, making in all 450,000! This computation referred to a period anterior to 1840. The traffic having become contraband, and active measures having been resorted to by this country, in conjunction with foreign powers, for its suppression, its horrors were multiplied; and it appears an undoubted fact, that "of every thousand victims to the slave-trade, one-half perish in the seizure, march, and detention on the coast; one-fourth of those embarked perish during the middle passage; and one-fifth of those who are landed, perish in the seasoning during the first year; and the remaining three hundred, with their descendants, are doomed to hopeless bondage and a premature grave."

Such was the state of the question when the philanthropists of Europe and America met at the Convention in 1840. It now remains for the friends of humanity, assembled in convocation, to inquire whether it has diminished or increased in extent and atrocity, and what expectation, if any, may be entertained of its extirpation.

If we consult the documents laid before Parliament, and rely on the statements of official men, it would appear that the slave-trade has very sensibly diminished within the last few years; but if we put faith in private sources of information, and in the statements submitted to us by men of intelligence and honour, who have no possible motive for deceiving us, then it will be found that the diminution in the slave-trade has been comparatively trifling, and that no rational hope can be indulged of its final extirpation, until slavery itself shall be abolished.

## CUBA.

According to the latest published returns of the slave-trade commissioners at Havana, the case stands thus:—"Previous to the year 1838," say they, "there were about 80 vessels from this port (Havana,) engaged in the slave-traffic. In 1838, there were 71; in 1839, 59; and in 1840, 54; making an apparent decrease of one-fourth of the number despatched, but in reality more; if we consider," they observe, "that five vessels at least were sent merely with stores and equipments, or as tenders to the slave-vessels." "Nor," say they, "is the falling off less satisfactorily exhibited in the number of vessels arriving from the coast of Africa. In 1837, the number returned was 51; in 1838, 50; in 1839, 47; and in 1840, 41. At first sight," they observe, "this may appear a decrease of only one-fifth, but an examination of the list will show a real decrease in the arrivals of one-third also, five having

returned in ballast, one having been too strictly watched to allow her to enter the port of destination for slaves; and two having returned with the crews and passengers of slaves condemned at Sierra Leone." The Commissioners further state, "that 28 vessels which landed their slaves in the port and neighbourhood of Havana in 1840, brought with them only 10,104 negroes: to this number they add six cargoes for Matanzas with 1,652 slaves; two cargoes for Santiago de Cuba, with 550 slaves, and 8 cargoes for Trinidad and the smaller ports, with 2,200 slaves, making something less than 15,000 in all; "or under the fifth of the supposed average of former years." The number of vessels which sailed from the Havana from 1st January to the 31st October, 1841, the latest period to which the official returns are printed, was 26, and the number of arrivals, is stated to be 23, having on board 7,985 slaves. This shows a further decrease. But it appears from a statement made by the Earl of Aberdeen in the House of Peers, on 28th February last, founded on the latest communications from the Commissioners at the Havana, dated 2nd of January, 1843:—"That the number of negroes imported were, in 1839, as many as 25,000; in 1840, they were 14,470; in 1841, 11,857, and in 1842, only 3,150. In 1837, the year previous to this return, the number imported was believed to be 40,000." So vast a diminution in the importation of human beings into Cuba, one of the chief slave markets in the world, would be matter of sincere congratulation if it could be relied on as perfectly correct. The Commissioners, however, may have been deceived—nothing is more probable—they may have been inactive, conceiving it to be no business of theirs to institute a rigid inquiry into the extent of the slave-trade, in different parts of the island, further than such notorious cases as came under their own observation, and this too is probable; or, the slave-trade in Cuba, may be carried on more clandestinely, and in ports remote from the Havana, from which they can obtain no certain information, and this we have reason to believe to be the case. But supposing that this decrease in the slave-trade had actually taken place, it is quite clear that it has not arisen from a decrease in the demand for slaves, for at the very time the Commissioners first announced the decrease in 1840, they observed: "Nor is this decrease in the supply to be explained away by any supposition of a decrease in the demand. The price of slaves in the market continues the same; and one of the late cargoes has been sold, we are credibly informed, though the negroes were very young, at the price per head of 425 dollars cash payment." And after adding, that the produce of the island had doubled within five years ending with 1840, they say, "it must be seen that it (the increase in the produce), could not be obtained without a greater demand, increasing with it, for labourers; and that these labourers, in the present state of the country, must be expected to be obtained from Africa." Exactly so; but if it be true that within these five years the number of slaves decreased so greatly, as the returns make it appear, namely, from 40,000 in 1837 to less than 15,000 in 1840, how is it possible the produce could have been doubled, especially when it is considered that the waste of slave life, on a low estimate, is equal to 5 per cent., or 30,000 per annum on the whole slave population? The fact is the Commissioners can have no official knowledge of the actual extent of the slave-trade in Cuba; their statements are grounded on such casual information as may reach them by accident or by inquiry; and they are in all probability the last persons to whom correct information would be given. In a later communication, (1841), having obtained information of the sailing of slavers for Africa, and the landing of upwards of 400 slaves at Guanama, they say, "From these circumstances it appears that the trade continues, in fact, unrepressed, but bears evidently more of a contraband character, as respects the arrivals." And, in a subsequent despatch (1842), after noticing the sailing of five vessels from the Havana suspected of being engaged in the slave-trade; they say, "These indications of undiminished pursuit of the slave-trade, we regret to add, are further confirmed by the arrivals, as it is reported that nearly 2,000 Africans were landed from slave vessels in the immediate neighbourhood (of the Havana) during the month;" that is, in October, 1841. It thus appears that, whilst the lists obtained by the Commissioners of the departures from, and arrivals of slaves at the Havana, showed an immense decrease, there were other infallible indications to prove that, somehow or other, the number of slaves imported could not have been greatly, if at all diminished, and this we believe to be the fact now.

From a distinguished individual residing at the Havana, who was good enough to report to the committee the state of the slave-trade in the island of Cuba, at the close of 1841, we learn that, "the oldest and strongest portion of the Spanish mercantile marine is devoted to this piratical employment. From the various ports of the island, and from some of those of the Peninsula, more especially from Cadiz and Barcelona, from 100 to 150 vessels are annually despatched to the coast of Africa. On the average, about 40 enter

the port of Havana, 20 at Matanzas, and about 40 between Trinidad and Santiago de Cuba. They measure from 70 to 500 tons each, and carry from 200 to 800 negroes in the confined space, or "tween decks." And this statement, it may be observed, agrees with the latest printed official accounts from Sierra Leone. For instance, the Judges of the Mixed Commission Court at that settlement, inform us, in their report for the year 1840, that 20 slavers from the island of Cuba had been captured on the Western coast of Africa and condemned, during that year. Of these 15 were from Havana, 2 from St. Jago de Cuba, 1 from Matanzas, and 2 from Cadiz. In comparing the names of these 20 slavers, with those in the lists furnished by the Commissioners resident at Havana, we find, of the vessels that sailed for Africa, in the years 1839 and 1840, only 6 bearing the same name with those captured, a clear proof that the others had sailed for Africa without their cognizance. Now, if this be true of the captured, how many more of the non-captured may have escaped their observation in sailing, and have returned with cargoes without their knowledge. This fact is decisive of the point that the information the Commissioners furnish the Government, cannot be relied upon as indicating the true extent of the African slave-trade with Cuba, or even a near approximation to it.

Another gentleman lately resident at the Havana, whose opportunities of knowing the practices of the slave-dealers were great, and who availed himself of them to serve the interests of humanity, in a recent communication observes: "The slave-trade continues in the island of Cuba with the same activity which has characterized it for the last five years, with this difference, that the infractions of the treaty between Spain and Great Britain are not so glaringly committed as heretofore. A little more trouble is taken by all parties to cover their nefarious proceedings." After detailing the circumstances of the arrivals and sailings of slavers at Havana, and the connivance of the authorities at these illegal proceedings, he says, "Garcia Oña, the Governor of Matanzas, protects the slave-trade as much as ever it was protected. Several slavers have recently sailed from Matanzas for the coast of Africa; amongst the number, a beautiful fast-sailing Spanish bark, the name of which has not yet been ascertained. Besides which, we are informed that successful landings of Africans at St. Jago de Cuba, Trinidad, and other outports of the island, take place weekly. "A consul at Matanzas, with instructions to watch over the infractions of existing treaties, who would dare to do his duty in the face of danger, would tend to produce a great deal of good."

#### BRAZIL.

The extent of the African slave-trade with Brazil is more difficult to be ascertained even than that with Cuba, enormous as it is known to be. From the official reports of the Commissioners at Rio it seems that in 1837, 92 vessels arrived from Africa, and landed, in the neighbourhood of Rio, 41,600 slaves; in 1838, 84 vessels landed 36,974 slaves; in 1839, 68 vessels landed 30,360 slaves; and in 1840, 27 vessels are supposed to have landed 12,297 slaves. It would thus appear that the slave-trade with Rio Janeiro had diminished upwards of two-thirds within this period; but this would be a fallacious inference, as we find that there were known to have left the port of Rio alone, direct for Africa, in the year 1839, 53 vessels of 9,764 tons; and in 1840, 54 vessels of 8,527 tons, capable of carrying, on the lowest computation, from 25,000 to 30,000 slaves for each of these years. Now, as we find, on comparing the names of vessels on the lists of departures from Rio with the names on the list of captures on the western coast of Africa, during the year 1840, that of them 3 only were seized by British cruisers, it follows, that of the remaining 51 vessels engaged in the slave-traffic for that year, with the exception of casualties at sea, 24 remain to be accounted for. These, we have no doubt, landed their cargoes in other parts of the province. But the vessels which sail from Rio Janeiro form only a part of the shipping employed in the odious trade; numbers are despatched from other ports of the empire, from most of which no returns whatever can be obtained.

The following extract of a letter, dated Santos, a port seventy miles to the south of Rio, January 9, 1843, will show how actively the slave-trade is carried on in that district, and how hopeless the expectation of its suppression under the present system:—

"We arrived off Santos on November 12, and received information that a slave vessel was daily expected from the east coast. The vessel arrived, but having gained intelligence from the Portuguese on shore that our boats were at the mouth of the river, she landed her cargo a few miles lower down, and thus escaped being captured. The commander of the English cruiser wrote to the Governor of Mozambique, who, not being friendly to the slave-trade, fined the vessel severely for a breach of the custom-laws, which was reported to the Portuguese Government at home, and an order was dispatched for his supercession, it having been found that he was too strict, and that, in consequence, the colonial treasury was impoverished; and the officers and soldiers employed in the colony were under the necessity of applying for their pay to the mother country. A duty is paid upon each slave of seven dollars; and the authorities, instead of suppressing the abominable traffic, encourage it by every means in their power. The ship in question sailed from Quillimane with 850 slaves, all children, and landed 620, having lost 230 on the passage. The cost of the slaves at Quillimane is about 32 milreis each, (about 4*l.* sterling,) and the price obtained for them when landed was 600 milreis (75*l.*) ready money, leaving a profit, after a deduction of 18 milreis for their subsistence on shore previous to being sold, of 550 milreis upon each slave, to pay for the expense of their transit, and to reimburse the vile wretches employed in this nefarious traffic, and also to enable them to see the authorities, in order to hoodwink them. In a conversa-

tion I had with the English Consul, Mr. Whittaker, he says that the authorities are all determined to encourage the traffic, alleging that no act can become law, by the Portuguese constitution, unless it be beneficial to the country generally; and that as the importation of negro slaves is beneficial, and desired by a majority of the people, the treaty entered into by the mother country is not binding upon them. The present Governor acts upon this principle, and the traffic is now in a flourishing state."

In forwarding the lists of slavers known to have departed from the port of Pernambuco for Africa, from October, 1840, to June, 1841, inclusive, amounting to 9, and to those which had arrived and landed their cargoes of slaves during the same period, amounting to 8, the Consul observes: "Reflecting upon these documents, it appears obvious that due vigilance is not observed by the superior authorities of the province; that those of inferior grade abuse the power delegated to them, otherwise the open disembarkation of the slaves, their introduction into the environs, nay, within the city itself, could easily be checked; the cupidity of the importers blinds the eye of justice, paralyzing the efforts of the few who are averse to the infamous trade." This statement is more than corroborated by a gentleman long resident at this port, who, in a recent communication to us, stated that he is convinced the number of slaves landed at Pernambuco and its immediate neighbourhood, may be safely estimated at 1,000 per month, exclusive of those disembarked in other parts of the province. In reference to the latter point, the late consul at Pernambuco, in a despatch to Lord Palmerston in 1839, states that, after the utmost diligence of inquiry and vigilance of research, he could not arrive at a correct knowledge of the facts relating to the slave-trade in that province, in consequence of the manner in which they are impenetrably veiled and disguised by the artful combinations of all those who are either directly or indirectly interested in the traffic of African slaves."

The number of slavers which sailed from the port of Bahia for the coast of Africa, from the 1st of January, 1840, to the 30th September, 1841, is stated to have been 40, the number which arrived, 28. From the success with which the slave-traders have been enabled to carry on their nefarious transactions at this port, several individuals, we are informed by the consul, formed a company for prosecuting it with increased vigour. In his despatch of August 31, 1841, he says, "They have already purchased five vessels, which are now ready, and on the eve of sailing; this circumstance will, I trust, sufficiently prove the necessity of having vessels of war constantly on this station."

In reference to Para, Mr. Consul Cowper says, "Scarcity of money in this province is the great drawback to the enterprise of the slavers, who cannot, of course, receive payment in produce" until "after six months' credit;" but, in reference to the northern provinces of the empire generally, he observes, "It is impossible to obtain any thing like a correct account of the number of slaves which are imported into the northern provinces of Brazil. *It is undoubtedly that half of the whole quantity smuggled into the empire are brought to them.* This arises from sundry causes: first, the want of population; which, secondly, renders them the best markets for slaves; and lastly, from the great facilities offered to smugglers by the many tributaries of the Amazon."

These notices of the Brazilian slave-trade, imperfect as they are, will show to how vast an extent the dreadful commerce in human beings is carried on between Africa and that country. We know that the demand for new slaves is immense, created not merely by the waste of life resulting from the system of slavery, which, as in Cuba, may be reckoned at 5 per cent. per annum, but by the extension of cultivation in various directions. The Brazilian planters deem it a matter of vital importance, to use their own words, to import "African slaves without restraint."

The number of slavers condemned at Sierra Leone during the year 1840 was 28, of which 19 bore the Spanish flag, 1 the Portuguese, and 8 the Brazilian. Only one vessel appears to have been adjudicated at the Havana for the same period, and two at Rio, in all, 31 slavers for the year; a very small proportion of the mighty fleet employed in the slave-trade. The total number of vessels employed in the Brazilian slave-trade is estimated at 200.

With the data before us, however, it is impossible with certainty to fix the number of its victims, nor is it necessary to do so; for, whether they be one thousand or one hundred thousand, our duty would remain the same, namely, to seek the entire abolition of slavery, and by destroying that, to destroy its cause; for whatever fluctuations the slave-trade may undergo, so long as there is a profitable market open for it in any part of the world, thither the supply of human victims will flow.

#### HORRORS OF THE SLAVE-TRADE.

The horrors of the slave-trade continue undiminished, as the following selection of cases will amply verify:—

#### CASE OF THE "JESUS MARIA."

"On the 29th of December, 1840, the Spanish slave schooner *Jesus Maria* was captured by H. M. schooner *Ringdove*. This vessel was 25 Spanish tons measurement, or about 35 tons British. She was in fact a small coaster, sailing from the Canary Islands to the different settlements on the coast of Africa, with, principally, potatoes and onions; but her captain, Vicente Morales, finding a number of Africans on the coast ready to be shipped, and no vessel ready to take them, changed the purpose of his voyage, and took them on board. She was so old and leaky, that had they met with the slightest bad weather they must have foundered, yet they embarked 278 unfortunate victims of the trade; besides having on board 9 persons, calling themselves passengers, and 10 others,

the crew. In all 297 persons, or  $8\frac{1}{2}$  persons to every ton. The whole of the negroes, with the exception of four, were children."—*Slave-trade Papers, Class A*, 1841, p. 175, 176.

The following extract of a letter from Mr. Consul Turnbull to Colonel Cockburn, Governor of the Bahamas, dated Havana, 20th January, 1841, will further show the dreadful circumstances to which these unhappy children were exposed on board the *Jesus Maria* :—

"From the extreme state of emaciation and debility in which they arrived, I have to lament the loss of seven of their number, in spite of all the care and anxiety with which they have since been attended by the commander and medical officers of Her Majesty's ship *Romney*, and by myself. The survivors, 233 in number, 136 males and 97 females, I have now the honour to consign to your Excellency's care, in the exercise of the discretion committed to me by Her Majesty's Government. Their age is far below the average of similar shipments, and I venture to suggest to your Excellency, that their case altogether is one which calls for a peculiar degree of tenderness in the arrangements to be made for their future disposal." \* \* \* "Independently of the fact, unhappily in this island too little regarded, that these young persons now committed to your Excellency's care, and others their companions, who perished on the passage, had been stolen and reduced to slavery, it becomes my duty to acquaint your Excellency that several of them have been the victims of the most revolting and atrocious crimes, such as would be visited with condign punishment by a jury of slave-dealers. On the deck of this wretched schooner, the *Jesus Maria*, three murders were committed, on a grown woman and two boys, for no other motive, that I have been able to collect, than of wanton cruelty. These bloody deeds were effected by dashing the victims on the deck, and by blows of so violent a nature as to produce fatal results. In the cabin of the *Jesus Maria*, a series of scenes were enacted of a still more odious and disgusting character. The defenceless condition of the young girls of the cargo afforded them no protection against the devouring lust of the slave captain, Vicente Morales, his pretended passenger, and scoundrel crew. I confess to your Excellency that I have not the courage to enter on this horrid catalogue of crime. I must content myself with referring you to Mambia, Zoobog, and Yaddy, three of this class of victims, and to the witness Crefoy, through whose superior intelligence, aided by her slight knowledge of Spanish, the facts will be more easily elicited."—*Slave-trade Papers, B*, 1841, pp. 76, 77.

#### CASE OF THE "DOUS FEVEREIRO."

"The Portuguese brig *Dous Fevereiro*, of 280 tons (Portuguese) was captured by H. M. schooner *Fawn*, on the 19th February, 1841. This unfortunate brig left Bahia fort on the coast of Benguela, on the 1st February with 510 negroes; and on the 19th, the day of her capture she had but 375 !! The following description extracted from the log of the *Fawn* shows the miserable condition of the survivors. On boarding the vessel we found all the slaves below with the hatches on: on turning them up, a scene presented itself, enough to sicken the heart even of a Portuguese. The living, the dying, and the dead, huddled together in one mass. Some unfortunates, in the most disgusting state of small-pox, in the confluent state, covered from head to foot; some distressingly ill with ophthalmia, a few perfectly blind, others, living skeletons, with difficulty crawled from below, unable to bear the weight of their miserable bodies. Mothers, with young infants hanging at their breasts, unable to give them a drop of nourishment: how they had brought them thus far appeared astonishing. All were perfectly naked, and their limbs much excoriated from lying on the hard planks for so long a period. On going below, the stench was insupportable; how beings could breathe such an atmosphere and live, appeared incredible. Several were under the loose planks, which was called the deck, dying, one dead." On the few days' passage to Rio Janeiro, 13 more died, 12 in the harbour, and a number on board the *Crescent*, the recovery dépôt for captured Africans in that port. Finally, of 180 who embarked for Berbice, 20 died on the passage though every care was taken, a good supply of medicines and antiscorbutics, together with ample and wholesome provisions, having been put on board. The following tabular statement presents the mortality of those embarked on board this vessel at one view.

Total number of persons on board on leaving Benguela ..	510
Died previous to capture ..	135
	—
Captured ..	375
Died during four days' passage to Rio Janeiro ..	13
"      " at ditto ..	12
"      " passage to Berbice ..	20
At Berbice, two days after disembarkation ..	4 — 49
	—
	326
Brought from Rio ..	180

Number left at Rio (of whom perhaps 30 may have died) 146

Allowing 20 for the mortality of those left behind on board the *Crescent*, we shall have an aggregate loss of 204 out of 510 the original number embarked, or, *one person out of every two and a half*."

#### CASES OF THE "UNIAO," "OLIVIERA," AND "FLOR DE TEIJO," LATE "ANDORINHA."

"The Brazilian brig *Uniao*, of 244 tons, received on board (at Loando) 683 slaves, of which number 183 died on the passage, having been at sea forty-three days; the vessel much crowded; short of water and provisions. Landed at Catuama (in the province of Pernambuco, Brazil) in March, 1841, about 500 slaves, very many in a sickly, weakly condition from their severe privations."

"The Portuguese brig *Oliviera*, of 313 tons, took on board (at Angola) 764 slaves! of which number 117 died during the voyage, the remainder landed April, 1841, to the southward of this port (Pernambuco); many perished on the beach from excessive thirst, weakness, and disease. Humanity shudders at the picture drawn of their sufferings; some were removed to the residence of one of the partners, about four miles distant from this city, where they are daily perishing, victims to the cupidity of those employed in this inhuman traffic."

"The Brazilian bark *Flor de Teijo*, late *Andorinha*, of 171 tons, received on board 720 slaves! More than 50 died on the passage; landed at Catuama on May 16, 1841, about 650 to 670; very many in a most wretched state from want and disease, through the overcrowded condition of the vessel. The remarks upon the *Oliviera* (above) are equally applicable to the unfortunate slaves imported in this vessel."—*Slave-trade Papers, class B*, p. 754.

#### CASE OF A SLAVER CAPTURED BY H.M. BRIG "WATERWITCH."

The *South African Commercial Advertiser* of February 20th, 1841, contains the following extract of a letter from St. Helena:—

"We have here a Portuguese schooner, captured by the *Waterwitch*, for condemnation, with 230 slaves on board. They have the small-pox very bad; those that are free from it are landed at Lemon Valley, which place is kept under strict quarantine. When the *Waterwitch* first gave chase, the captain endeavoured to get away by lightening the vessel; for which purpose he threw overboard about 130 slaves, having originally on board 350. He then ran his vessel on shore, and made his escape. The boats of the *Waterwitch* saved about seventy from drowning, but the greater part of them died afterwards from exhaustion."

#### DIFFICULTY OF SUPPRESSING THE SLAVE-TRADE.

The following is the substance of a statement of the difficulties which are found in suppressing the slave-trade on the coast of Africa, which was communicated by Captain Hall, late in command of H.M. brig *Rolla*, employed on that coast:—

The cruel, unfeeling, and heartless slave-traders, or their agents, reside at the most convenient places at or near the slaving towns or villages on the west coast of Africa; and have generally large expensive establishments, in the shape of baracoons, for from 500 to 600 slaves to live in; others for women and boys, with comfortable houses and every luxury for themselves. They have also factories, or storehouses, containing quantities of slave goods, the only inland barter for slaves. A great portion of these goods are of English manufacture, such as muskets, gunpowder, bar iron (for forging shackles and chains), cutlery, slave cottons, rum, tobacco, woollen cloths, salt provisions, rice, farina, &c.; these are carried to the coast, and considered as *legal trade* by mercenary merchant ships of all nations, particularly English, French, and Americans. The produce these vessels get on the coast in return is merely nominal; most of them leave in ballast, receiving from the slave-dealers payment in cash or bills on London houses for the goods or freightage out. There is scarcely an English merchant on the slave coast but indirectly carries on, and finds it his interest to keep up, the slave-trade; and the slave-traders can at all times procure an unlimited supply of slave goods from them.

A speculating slave-dealer from Cuba or Brazils, if he cannot readily procure a fast vessel for slaving, or wishes to avoid the risk of the outward voyage, gets a passage across in an American or Brazilian merchant vessel, generally laden with articles manufactured chiefly at Manchester and Birmingham, expressly for the slave market. He either takes a round sum of money with him, or deposits a sum beforehand in a London banking-house, on which he draws his bills to pay for the slave goods and for the purchase of a fast-sailing vessel, mostly American, built for the express purpose, and brought to the Cape de Verd islands and on the coast for sale.

The regular slavers running between Cuba and Brazils and the coast of Africa, procure their goods for barter on credit from English houses in those countries, which they can to any extent, at the risk of 25 per cent. on the first cost. All these goods, technically known as *coast goods*, are of the worst possible manufacture, for which the natives are charged exorbitant prices.

The slaving piratical vessels which run across the Atlantic for cargoes of slaves sail very fast, and are generally well armed with large guns, for the express purpose of killing and wounding the seamen, and sinking the boats belonging to British cruisers, showing at the time no flag. On their making the slave coast to which they are bound, they immediately, night or day, communicate with the shore by means of light canoes, when they make sail off the land, and at the appointed hour stand in close to the beach, keeping under weigh. Everything being prepared, they ship off from the open beach their slaves, provisions, and water, in the course of three or four hours, crowd sail, and escape with impunity, which more than half do in spite of our vigilant cruisers. The elements seem to befriend them on the coast of Africa; the weather being generally thick and hazy, with light breezes and smooth water. They have exact information as to the position of the cruisers on the coast, and know their sailing qualities to a nicety; they have look-outs along it, and a communication is kept up by signals, fires, smokes, and small kroo canoes, which pull along shore very fast, giving timely notice of the approach of a man-of-war or her boats. The inducements to the slave-dealers are very great; indeed, if at all successful, they realize a profit of from 180 to 200 per cent., and upwards. All the chiefs and natives on the coast heartily turn their attention to the exportation of slaves: every other trade is lost sight of. The chiefs consider the slave-trade as a source of legitimate revenue, and they consider treaties as mere waste paper.

The present system of suppressing the slave-trade by cruisers is attended with great risk, anxiety, and loss of life, as also heavy expenses to the country; it is also attended with unspeakable horrors and unutterable sufferings to the poor unfortunate slaves who are doomed for exportation. They are frequently for months, in consequence of a man-of-war blockading the place, kept in a state of mere starving existence in the baracoons on shore. From the heavy expense of feeding them, many are starved to death, chained together in gangs of from twelve to twenty, by the neck, or shackled together by the legs in pairs. On an opportunity offering, they are shipped off in an exhausted, inanimate state, and packed in a slaver's hold nearly in bulk, where their miseries or sufferings increase, as they are deprived of fresh air, and almost of water, which they did not experience the want of in the baracoons. Only imagine, if it be possible their accumulated sufferings during the voyage across the Atlantic; and, should they be taken by a man-of-war on the eve of landing the cargo of slaves at Cuba, or on the coast of Brazil, they would then, poor wretches, probably, have to proceed on another voyage of extreme misery, until many would be happily relieved by death.

## NAVAL FORCE EMPLOYED IN THE SUPPRESSION OF THE SLAVE TRADE.

"The number of vessels of war of all sizes engaged in the suppression of the slave-trade, during the year 1842, was 58, manned by 8,554 seamen, and mounting 945 guns. The estimated expense of keeping up this force is stated to be 575,466*l.* per annum."—*Par. Pap.* 363. 1843.

## NOTICES.

THE ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER is an Evening Paper, published on alternate Wednesdays, and may be had of all News-venders throughout the country. Price 4*d.*, or 8*s.* 8*d.* per annum.

Subscriptions and Donations to the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society should be forwarded to the Treasurer (G. W. Alexander, Esq.) at the Society's Office, 27, New Broad-street, London.

All Communication for the Editor of the *Anti-Slavery Reporter* must be sent to the Office of the Society, as above.

## FUNDS.

THE Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society beg very earnestly and respectfully to call the attention of their friends to the subject of Funds, and to urge upon them the necessity of liberal contributions in aid of the great objects the Society has in view. They would especially remind them of the additional heavy expenses which have necessarily attended the late Convention. A distinct subscription has been opened to meet the same. Those friends who have collecting books will have the kindness to forward any such sums as they may have collected, as early as convenient. Donations and subscriptions are received by the treasurer, G. W. Alexander, Esq., at the office of the Society, No. 27, New Broad-street, London.

## ANTI-SLAVERY CONVENTIONS.

We have the pleasure to announce that a volume is in the press containing, "THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANTI-SLAVERY CONVENTION," whose sittings have recently terminated. It will be printed uniform with the one previously issued, and from the short-hand notes of Mr. J. F. Johnson, at the moderate price of Seven Shillings and Sixpence.

We also beg to inform our friends that Mr. George Baxter, the patentee of the newly-invented process of printing in oil colours—whose pictures of Williams, the devoted missionary to Polynesia; and of Moffat, now labouring among the African tribes, have obtained him so much celebrity—proposes to publish Haydon's great picture of the Anti-Slavery Convention, held in June, 1840. As soon as one hundred and fifty Subscribers' names are received, the work will be commenced. The price of the picture will be 3*l.* 3*s.* for proofs, and 2*l.* 2*s.* for prints; the size 21*½* inches by 17. We are anxious, for the sake of the anti-slavery cause, that these works should appear as early as possible; and, for the sake of the spirited individuals who bring them out at their own risk, that all the encouragement our friends can give should be afforded them. We shall be happy to receive the names of subscribers for both the above works.

## The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

LONDON, JULY 26, 1843.

THE bill for the more effectual suppression of the slave-trade has been read a third time in the House of Lords; but not without undergoing, in Committee, so large an amount of alteration as in many, and, as we think, most important respects, to change its original character and design.

The bill, as presented to Parliament, proposed two things; first, to fix the sense of existing laws for the suppression of the slave-trade and the extinction of slavery, so far as British subjects were concerned; and, secondly, to remedy the supposed defects of those laws, by additional enactments which should not only render it criminal for them to buy and sell slaves, but to hold, hire, retain, or employ slaves in foreign countries, for any purposes, or under any pretexts whatever.

Such a measure was required to convince the world that the Government and people of this country were in earnest in their professed determination to put down the slave-trade and slavery, wherever their laws could be brought to bear, and their power and influence might extend; for it is a notorious fact, that one of the main pillars which support these monstrous evils at the present time is British capital conjoined with British enterprise. Our merchants trading to the coast of Africa, with few, very few exceptions, are not content with the amount of legitimate commerce which it presents, but they must become the great purveyors, carriers, and vendors of goods to the slave-traders and slave-factories, by which the unholy traffic is carried on. Beyond this it is equally well known that British merchants resident in Cuba and Brazil, representing, in many cases, mercantile and manufacturing firms in this country, are not less implicated than those already mentioned in aiding and abetting the slave-trade, by furnishing the means by which it is carried on; by conditional arrangements with the slave-traders; and sometimes even by a more direct participation in their guilty gains. Cupidity triumphs over principle and law. Dazzled by the rapid fortunes which are sometimes made by successful slave-trading adventurers, British subjects residing abroad lend themselves without remorse to acts which in their own country would overwhelm them with disgrace, and procure for them a felon's fate. Nor is this all. Companies are formed at home for the working of mines, and for other purposes, by slave-labour. These companies are the purchasers of slaves, though sometimes, to evade the penalties of the law, they contract for the labour of slaves for a period, say of fifty years. In all manner of ways, by all sorts of shifts and devices, by every imaginable species of fraud, British subjects become slave-buyers, slave-sellers, and

slaveholders, and offer every impediment in their power to the operation of the laws of their native land, and to the fulfilment of its treaties with foreign states.

Such being the case, the necessity for the proposed enactment is apparent. We shall examine how far the bill, as "amended in Committee," to use the parliamentary phrase, is calculated to secure its professed object.

Before the second reading of the bill, it underwent several important modifications and additions, against which we felt it to be our duty most strongly to protest in the last number of the *Reporter*. Comparing the bill, as amended in Committee, with bill No. 2, the case stands thus:—Clause 1 has several verbal amendments, which give the bill an entirely prospective character. It has ceased to be declaratory as well as enactive. The clause, as it now stands, applies to buying and selling, not to holding, hiring, &c.; but it extends the penalties of the old act to cases that may occur under the new one. Clause 2 of bill No. 2, which prohibited holding, hiring, &c., by British subjects, is now withdrawn; and its place partially supplied by clause 6 of the amended bill, in the case of British companies only. Clause 2 of the present bill, with a verbal amendment, is the same as clause 3 of bill No. 2; but owing to the withdrawal of the preceding clause, it requires the addition of words applying it to the Abolition of Slavery Act in our own colonies. Clause 4 of bill No. 2, inflicting penalties for holding, hiring, &c., and giving liberty to the slaves, is now withdrawn. The liberty of such slaves is, therefore, unprovided for in foreign countries under the present bill; and no penalty remains, except on the bond to be exacted hereafter from companies. Clause 3, respecting the trial of offenders, remains as in clause 5 of bill No. 2. Clause 4, respecting evidence taken abroad, and transmitted to the Court of Queen's Bench, remains the same as in clause 6 of bill No. 2. It appears, however, to require several verbal amendments. Clause 5, giving power to Her Majesty in Council to regulate trade, and prevent illegal traffic on the coast of Africa, and to define the acts of aiding and abetting the slave-trade, remains the same as clause 7 of bill No. 2. Clause 6 is the same as clause 8 of bill No. 2, with the addition of a paragraph for securing the possession of slaves already held, or that may be obtained before the act comes into operation. The wording of this paragraph is capable of being easily evaded, so as to enable existing companies, by prospective contracts with slave-dealers, to obtain a successive supply of slaves at any future time. Clauses 9 and 10 of bill No. 2, giving powers of inspection, examination, and verification of persons and registers connected with mines, &c., and inflicting punishments for false returns and obstructing the operation of the act, are now withdrawn, leaving the provision on the subject comparatively inoperative. Clause 7 of the amended bill contains provisions so drawn as to enable the offender to escape the consequences of forfeiture under the old Slave-trade Abolition Act, by transferring his interest to a friend, whilst it indirectly operates as a premium on the stock of the existing companies.

Now what do we gain by the bill in its present shape? It has been said, that we gain a distinct recognition of the illegality of buying and selling slaves in foreign countries, and an application of the penalties of the old Slave-trade Abolition Act to such cases. We believe existing laws strictly prohibit the acts referred to, and that, upon proof produced, before any British court, conviction and punishment would follow. It has been said also that we gain such a definition of the word "slave" as will hereafter include all cases of compulsory servitude. Even if this were so, we think that already secured by existing laws. It has been further said that, in the case of British companies, we gain the additional security of a bond, involving the penalty of 5,000*l.* against holding of slaves (with certain exceptions) and the establishment of a registry of labourers. We admit this; but then the exceptions are so large as to leave it doubtful whether the bond and the registry would be of any real value. The words of the bill run thus, "That such company shall not in their aggregate capacity, nor by their agents or servants acting in the name and behalf of such company, hold, hire, retain, or employ, or contract for holding, hiring, retaining, or employing of slaves, other than and except such slaves as they may have held, hired, retained, or employed, or contracted for the holding, hiring, retaining, or employing before the time of this Act coming into operation," which it is proposed shall be on the 1st March, 1844. It thus legalizes the holding of the slaves these companies already possess, or may possess on the 1st March, 1844, however they may have been obtained. Now there is little doubt that most, if not all the slaves possessed by the mining companies, have been illicitly imported into Cuba and Brazil, and consequently are forfeited under the laws of these countries, and their treaties with Great Britain for the suppression of the slave-trade. It is likewise certain, that the purchase of such slaves by these companies is a felony under the present laws. Why then should the holding of these slaves be now legalized?

But it has been said the power of prosecuting offenders in England by the ordinary process of law, guilty of offences against the act, and of obtaining evidence from abroad in prosecutions for minor offences, is secured by this bill, and that the Privy Council also is invested by it with ample powers for regulating trade, for preventing illegal traffic, and taking surety for good conduct. This is admitted; but what have we lost by the so-called amendments of the original bill? That bill contained a general prohibition on British subjects to hold, hire, retain, or employ slaves in foreign countries. That is gone. It also provided corresponding penalties and forfeitures on principals and agents violating this prohibition.

That is gone also. It further provided for restoring slaves unlawfully, held to freedom. That is gone, too. It moreover provided, in the case of companies, a system of inspection, examination, and verification, with specific punishments for false returns and obstruction of officers in the performance of their duties. And that is gone, likewise.

From the whole it results that this bill contains provisions in favour of slaveholders which abolitionists cannot consent to. The paragraph, for instance, in clause 6, is so worded as to allow of contracts being entered into before the 1st of March next, with any company of slave-traders, for furnishing hereafter an annual supply of slaves, as *hired servants*, to the existing British companies. And that some such plan may be in contemplation is probable from the well-known fact that slave importers find it more profitable, in some cases, to let slaves out to hire, than to sell them outright. Again, clause 7 specifically provides, "That nothing in this act contained shall be taken to subject to any forfeiture, punishment, or penalty, any person for obtaining possession of any slave by reason of inheritance, legacy, marriage, gift, or other act or consequence of law, which possession shall not be obtained by any voluntary act of the party himself holding such slave, other than consenting to such legacy, marriage, gift, or other act or consequence of law; or to subject any person for transferring or receiving any share in any joint-stock company established by any persons before the time of this act coming into operation, in respect of any slave or slaves in possession of such company before such time." Thus it will be seen that, should this bill become law, we may not question the right of these companies to the possession of their slaves, however unlawfully they may have been obtained. Is this to be endured?

In its passage through the House of Lords, the original design of the bill has been lost sight of, and is now admirably adapted to quiet the apprehensions of slaveholding Englishmen in all parts of the world, to increase the value of shares in mining companies whose gains result from slave labour, and in a hundred other ways to strengthen the system of slavery, whilst it denies to the slaves who may have been illegally obtained their right to freedom, by leaving the right of their masters to retain them in slavery unquestioned. We earnestly trust our friends will feel it to be their duty to oppose this bill so far as it contravenes the great object of the original bill, and that they never will consent to recognise a principle in British legislation which admits a right of property in their fellow-men. "There is a law," says the noble lord who has had the conduct of this bill through the Upper House, in his own forcible and eloquent language, "There is a law above all the enactments of human codes. It is a law written by the finger of God in the heart of man; and by that law, unchangeable and eternal, while men despise fraud, and loathe rapine, and abhor blood, they shall reject with indignation the wild and guilty phantasy, that man can hold property in man." This doctrine British philanthropists have embraced and will defend, nor will they consider their labours terminated until it shall be recognised as the basis of all legislation, involving human rights, throughout the civilized world.

We are delighted to find that the public press is beginning to turn its attention to the present position of Texas, and to consider its bearing not only on questions of home policy, but in its wider and more important relation to the general freedom and welfare of mankind. An able article appeared in the *Morning Chronicle* of the 14th inst., showing an intimate acquaintance with the subject, and, what is more to our purpose, a deep interest in it, and a just appreciation of its importance. That article we should have been glad to have transferred to our columns, but our limited space forbids; we must, however, give its concluding paragraph:—"Texas has been separated from Mexico, and its independence acknowledged; it now becomes the duty of all philanthropists to encourage the Anti-slavery feeling which has happily sprung up in Texas, as it is manifestly the policy of Britain to prevent that country being annexed to the United States. Thus would be prevented a train of disastrous results, some of which are evident, but the full extent of which it is impossible to foresee. It is now in our power, by a timely encouragement of the anti-slavery feeling, to assist the new state to maintain her independence, and the genius of freedom to extend her dominion in 'the beautiful lands of the West.'"

An equally able article appeared in the *Globe* of the 19th inst. Founding its remarks on the recent intelligence from Texas, and the large amount of public attention it has occupied through the medium of the press in the United States, the *Globe* observes, "They," the leading men in Texas, "wisely prefer a distinct nationality, and such changes in their institutions as shall give fair play to the great natural advantages of the country in attracting immigration, and developing a healthful and virtuous condition of the community. These parties are now disposed to turn their eyes towards England for assistance in carrying out their patriotic and benevolent plans." But it is added, "We can assure the Texan Republic that the continuance of slavery amongst them will prove an effectual barrier to the realization of their views; and that the better and more numerous class of immigrants will not go to people their prairies, unless they are prepared at once to defeat the policy of their pretended friends in the slaveholding states of the American Union. We are satisfied, however, that the course which philanthropy and patriotism suggest is really that which Texas is desirous to follow; and in proof, we need only refer to the alarm betrayed by the Southern states, and particularly to the expressions of fear given by the New Orleans papers."

The concluding paragraphs of the article are too important to be

omitted. Referring to the conflict of opinion which exists in the United States on the policy of annexing Texas to that Republic, and the appeal which has been made to Great Britain to prevent so fearful a catastrophe, the *Globe* asks:—

"And shall not 'Great Britain' do something for the benefit of Texas in this critical juncture of the affairs of that country; or shall we witness with indifference the important struggle which is now being made for freedom? If we now criminally withhold our influence, we shall early in next year have, as the result, to contemplate the consolidation of two sovereign nations, for the purpose of strengthening and perpetuating the accursed slave system and the horrors of the slave-trade."

And to show the importance which it attaches to this question in relation to British influence and interests in the Western world, it adds:—

"The damage which would result to the political and commercial interests of our own and other countries by the absorbing of Texas in the Northern Republic, we have not space at present to describe. We must, however, observe, that no statesman can be alive to the interests of Britain, who does not direct his most earnest efforts against the attempt about to be openly made to disturb the balance of power in the western hemisphere, and who is prepared to see with complacency Texas attached to the Federal Government, and that government then encroaching upon Mexico, until its arms are extended completely around the Mexican Gulf."

In another place will be found such extracts from the press of the United States, as will enable our readers generally to understand the bearing and importance of this great subject.

On Wednesday, the 12th inst., the following memorial and resolutions, in reference to the present state of the republic of Texas, were presented to the Earl of Aberdeen by a deputation of the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, composed of Messrs. George Stacey, John Beaumont, Robert Forster, Josiah Conder, John Scoble, and the Rev. J. H. Hinton, accompanied by Lewis Tappan, Esq., of New York.

The deputation were most courteously received by the noble lord, and not only assured of the lively interest he took in the subject, but of the intention of Her Majesty's Government to use their influence, so far as it could honourably and legitimately be done, in promoting the great object proposed in the documents presented.

If the authorities and people of Texas be wise, an opportunity is now afforded them of redeeming the character of their country from the opprobrium under which it rests, and will continue to rest so long as slavery curses its soil; and of laying the foundations of its future peace and prosperity broad and deep.

*To the Right Hon. the Earl of Aberdeen, &c., &c.*

My Lord,—The position which the Government of this country has happily taken in relation to the great question of human freedom is such as to warrant the expectation of the people of Great Britain, and of the civilized world, that whenever and wherever its influence can be legitimately exerted to advance it, that influence will be promptly and efficiently put forth. It is on this ground the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society solicit your lordship's serious attention to the remarkable state of things at this time existing in the republic of Texas, which they are firmly convinced presents an opportunity, such as never occurred before, for the extinction of slavery, and which, if properly and promptly seized by the Government of this country, cannot fail to lead to the happiest results.

Whatever opinions may be entertained with regard to the severance of Texas from Mexico, and the relations established between these republics and this and other nations, it must be conceded that its situation, natural resources, and institutions, render it a country of great importance to the whole of the human family. If it continue to be a slave state, the hopes cherished with regard to the speedy extinction of slavery would be greatly depressed; should it, on the contrary, become a free as well as an independent state, those hopes would be realized in the extinction of that giant evil, and consequently of the slave-trade in those parts of the western world where it now unhappily prevails.

Recent intelligence, from various quarters, shows that the present embarrassed state of Texas, arising from its difficulties with Mexico, its financial perplexities, the depressed prices of its produce, &c., have forced upon its inhabitants a discussion of the question whether the alarming state of things under which they suffer may not be remedied, and the prosperity of the country permanently secured, by the voluntary abandonment of the system of slavery, and the adoption of a constitution insuring freedom to all. The enterprising and intelligent portion of the Texan community appears to be aware, that unless some change is effected, immigration, which has already subsided, may entirely cease; and that they will be utterly unable to bring the vast resources of the country into profitable use. Their attention is consequently directed to the consideration of such measures as they apprehend may relieve their country from its desperate condition. Annexation to the United States is one of the measures contemplated. This, it is said, will enhance the value of the land, induce immigration of planters with their slaves, and create a new market for the slaves reared in the slave-breeding portion of that country. Another measure proposed is the abolition of slavery. This, it is argued, would invite the hardy yeomanry of Europe and the free states of America, and give even greater value to the land, and stability to its institutions. It is scarcely necessary to suggest to your Lordship, that these are questions of the highest interest, not only to the people of Texas, but to the friends of freedom and peace throughout the world.

With respect to the annexation of Texas to the United States,

the Committee would deprecate that as one of the greatest evils that could befall the human race, inasmuch as it would serve to insure the extension and perpetuation of slavery in both countries. But they are not without hope that this catastrophe may be prevented, by the timely interposition of the British Government, as there are indications, not less striking than cheering, of a great movement in Texas in favour of liberty, which, if now judiciously strengthened and encouraged, will lead, they believe, to its triumphant establishment.

Supposing this important point gained, the people of this country, and the friends of free institutions throughout the world, would regard with feelings of the liveliest interest the tide of immigration of free settlers which would then rapidly flow into Texas. Such a population, carrying with them the blessings of freedom, civilization, and religion—rapidly increasing in number, and as rapidly developing the resources of the country—would prove not only of immense commercial value to this country, but to the world at large; and in advancing its own prosperity and greatness, Texas would then eminently promote the freedom and happiness of millions now held in bondage, and add to the general progress and welfare of mankind.

It must, however, be confessed, that while the discussion of this question is going on in Texas, an influential portion of the slave-holders of the United States,—many of whom possess lands in that country, now of but nominal value,—are making a renewed, vigorous, and desperate struggle, in unison with that part of the people of Texas whose interests lie in the same direction, to have it annexed to the United States, either by legislative enactment, or by the more summary mode of treaty.

In reference to this point, the Committee feel it to be their duty to apprise your lordship that facts have come to their knowledge which afford grounds for serious apprehension that unless the British Government speedily interpose with Texas, either directly or through Mexico, to relieve its people from the overwhelming pressure of their present difficulties, the event so much dreaded may occur. The Committee presume not to suggest to your lordship how the influence of this country should be exerted; but they would fail in the duties imposed on them by the anti-slavery body of this country, as well as in the discharge of their obligations to humanity, and to the God of the oppressed, if they did not respectfully and strongly urge an immediate consideration of this weighty subject, in all its important bearings, on Her Majesty's Government, believing that they have it in their power to aid Texas, in freeing itself from the curse of a system which has blighted its prosperity, and ruined its prospects, and of establishing a state of things which would ensure its future strength and prosperity.

Nor do British philanthropists stand alone in these views. At the late Anti-Slavery Convention, embracing the representatives of the sacred cause of human freedom, from various parts of the world, the contemplated annexation of Texas to the United States was viewed as an evil of the greatest magnitude, which ought to be strenuously resisted by all the friends of justice and freedom throughout the world; and that the feeling now prevailing in that country in favour of free institutions ought to be encouraged by the British Government and people as a great duty they owed to mankind. In accordance with these views, and the increasing feeling of the people of this country on the subject, the attention of your lordship is earnestly invoked to its early consideration; and the Committee would cherish the expectation, that it may result in such efficacious measures as will redound to the honour of Her Majesty's Government, and the fame the nation has acquired by its past efforts for the suppression of slavery and the slave-trade.

I have the honour to be, on behalf of the Committee,

My lord,

Your lordship's obedient humble servant,  
(Signed) THOMAS CLARKSON.

27, New Broad-street, July 7, 1843.

Resolutions passed at the General Anti-Slavery Convention, held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday, the 20th day of June, 1843, James Cropper, jun., Esq., V.P., in the Chair:—

1. That in the deliberate judgment of this Convention the annexation of Texas to the United States is sought, and would be used by the slaveholding power in the South, for the purpose of extending the internal slave-trade, and thus of perpetuating slavery on the American continent; that it is therefore most earnestly deprecated by this body, as one of the greatest calamities which could befall the human race; and ought to be strenuously resisted by all the friends of justice and freedom on both sides of the Atlantic in the use of every available and legitimate means.

2. That this Convention, having learned from various sources that a lively interest is awakened and gathering strength throughout Texas in favour of emancipation as essential to the prosperity and security of that state, is persuaded that the British Government, which has already recognised its independence, might at this crisis render the most important aid and encouragement to the cause of humanity, by giving countenance and sanction to the efforts of those who are struggling to terminate slavery in Texas, and to constitute it a free state; and this Convention earnestly recommends to the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society to consider how they may best serve this cause, and especially to memorialize the noble Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on the subject, and to assure him that any measure which the Government, in its discretion, may adopt for the promotion of the abolition of slavery in the republic of Texas, and which may not be at variance with the principles of this Convention, will meet with the very cordial support of the anti-slavery body.

THE discussion on the bill for giving effect to the tenth article of the Washington treaty, which was to have taken place on last Mon-

day night, is postponed. We have been favoured with a lengthened communication from an American friend on the subject, which we regret our confined limits will not allow us to insert in the present *Reporter*: we shall take care, however, that the valuable information it contains shall be used in forwarding the great cause he has so much at heart. In the conclusion to which he arrives, namely, that there is no security that the article will not be abused by the Slaveholders of the United States, to accomplish their nefarious purposes, but in excepting from its operation the fugitive slave altogether, we most cordially concur.

We have also received a copy of a petition, to be presented to the House of Commons this night, on the same subject, from our venerable friend Thomas Clarkson, which we shall give in our next. It is full of those just views, and that nice discrimination for which he is so remarkable.

We beg to call the attention of our readers to the article on the "Extent of the Slave-trade with Cuba and Brazil." It will well repay the attention that may be given to it; and will prove, if it were necessary, that the only effectual remedy for the slave-trade is the universal abolition of slavery.

THE most important item of colonial intelligence which has recently reached this country is from the Cape of Good Hope. Port Natal is to be taken under the protection of the British Crown, as a British colony. From the minute of the Legislative Council at the Cape, dated 4th May, 1843, we make the following extract, as indicating the policy of the British Government in the settlement of the long-agitated district of Natal. The friends of humanity must rejoice in so wise and humane a termination of its affairs:—

"The commissioner will likewise be instructed to make known, in the most explicit terms, to the emigrants, that, whatever may be the institutions ultimately sanctioned, the three following conditions are absolutely essential:—

"1st. That there shall not be in the eye of the law any distinction or disqualification whatever founded on mere distinction of colour, origin, language, or creed; but that the protection of the law, in letter and in substance, shall be extended impartially to all alike.

"2nd. That no aggression shall be sanctioned upon the natives residing beyond the limits of the colony, under any plea whatever, by any private person or any body of men, unless acting under the immediate authority and orders of the government.

"3rd. That slavery in any shape, or under any modification, is absolutely unlawful, as in every other portion of her Majesty's dominions.

"So essential, indeed, to the mind of her Majesty's Government are these conditions, that I am instructed to take especial care for it to be distinctly understood that they are indispensable preliminaries to the permission which it is proposed to give to the emigrants to occupy the territory of Port Natal and to enjoy therein a settled government under British protection."

The news from Jamaica is of a painful character. The youthful countess of Elgin, who appears to have been a most amiable woman, is dead. Her decease took place under circumstances peculiarly affecting, two days after having given birth to her second child, which is dead also. The island is tranquil. Bridgetown, the capital of Barbadoes, has done itself honour by returning as its representatives in the Colonial Legislature two coloured gentlemen, our high-minded friend Samuel J. Presco, and Henry Sharpe, Esqrs. The latter gentleman is the Attorney-General of the island. The subject of squatting is resumed in Trinidad. We trust, however, the Government will never allow the counsels of Mr. Burnley to triumph in this matter. British Guiana gives promise of a larger crop than that of last year, which exceeded that of the former by 2,000,000lbs. Generally the news from the colonies is satisfactory.

We much regret that, owing to an error of the copyist, the wrong address to Christian professors was inserted in our last *Reporter*. The following is the one ordered to be printed and circulated by the late General Anti-Slavery Convention, which we hope will be both extensively read and circulated, as it well deserves to be:—

#### THE ADDRESS OF THE GENERAL ANTI-SLAVERY CONVENTION,

HELD IN LONDON FROM THE 13TH TO THE 22ND JUNE INCLUSIVE, 1843.  
To the Christian professors of every denomination in America, and in all other countries where the influence of slavery exists.

DEAR FRIENDS AND BRETHREN,—Under a deep sense of the duties and responsibilities which, as professing Christians, devolve upon us, we affectionately address you on the momentous subject of slavery; to promote the immediate and universal abolition of which we are now assembled in Convention.

To attempt to prove, in these days of light and knowledge, that the institution of slavery, with all its foul and evil influences on the oppressor and the oppressed, is a most unjust and cruel outrage on the inalienable rights of humanity, and the sanction of it a flagrant violation of the precepts of the gospel, would be little less than an insult to the understandings and feelings of Christian professors of any country or of any name. If there are, however, among the professed followers of the merciful Redeemer, those whose eyes may be so far blinded, or their consciences so far seared by interest or ignorance, pride or prejudice, as still to sanction or uphold this unjust and sinful system, we would earnestly entreat them, not only for the sake of the suffering slave, but for their own soul's sake, to abandon at once and for ever a course so hateful in the sight of

Him who "hath made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth;" and who hath given his only-begotten Son "a ransom for all," without distinction of colour or of clime. We feel bound thus faithfully to warn all those professors of the Christian name who may hold, or justify the holding, of their fellow-men in bondage, in the firm and solemn belief that we shall hereafter be judged, not by the standard which our wilful ignorance or interested prejudice may have induced us to adopt with secret misgivings, but by that righteous standard which our blessed Lord unalterably fixed when he said, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them;" a standard upon which the light of truth has now so clearly shone, as to leave every Christian professor without the shadow of an excuse for continuing or upholding the mildest system of personal slavery. In those countries, however, where Christianity is professed, but where slavery still exists, there are many who may acknowledge its cruelty and injustice, who would shrink from any active participation in its guilt, and who profess, and we believe sincerely profess, to desire its speedy and entire abolition. To you, our fellow-professors of this most important class, upon whom, in America more especially, the question of the safe and speedy, or protracted and dangerous abolition of slavery greatly rests,—we earnestly yet affectionately entreat you to remember, that under existing circumstances silence may be guilt, and inactivity or indifference may be sin. We would therefore beseech you, brethren, prayerfully to consider how far you are faithfully bringing the convictions of your own minds to bear on the sentiments of the community at large upon this great question. It is in vain to expect that slavery will be abolished by the government of any free country, until there has been raised against it that force of public opinion which gives the moving principle to legislation, and the executive power to law. And since each member of society, however obscure, assists in forming for good or evil this sum of public opinion, how deeply important is it that every individual in a professedly religious community should use all his influence and his energy to raise the tone of moral and religious feeling around him, to at least that Christian standard which he himself acknowledges.

In thus encouraging you to the performance of your duty as members of civil and religious society, permit us to observe that it is one thing silently to retain a sentiment in our own bosom, it is another to declare it boldly and openly to all around us;—it is one thing to pass over without observation the erroneous sentiments that may be expressed in our hearing, and it is quite another thing fearlessly yet meekly to counteract such sentiments by the honest expression of our own. It is very easy to stand silent spectators of the earnest efforts of a few devoted men, struggling against fearful difficulties to obtain the end for which we may more secretly profess to be anxious; but it is not so easy amid the prejudice of a slave-holding nation zealously to co-operate with their arduous labours on behalf of a poor, despised, and injured people. We are not insensible to the trials of your position, disengaged as you may be in the performance of your duty by the sneers or ill will of the majority who surround you; but bearing in mind that it is mainly by the uncompromising performance of your individual duty, that the majority will be reduced; that you each form a link in that chain of influence which is all powerful to shatter or rivet the fetters of the enslaved; we fervently entreat you to come forth in the meekness, but in the firmness and the boldness of the Christian character, and regardless alike of the smiles or the frowns of others, endeavour to do your part towards turning the tide of national feeling in favour of the oppressed and injured slave.

It may be there are those amongst you, who, in their anxiety to disengagement what they may conceive to be the injudicious zeal or improper conduct of some who have been very active in the abolition movement, have declined to take any part themselves in this work of justice and humanity. There may be others who go still further, and hesitate not to judge and condemn, on professedly religious grounds, those who may feel conscientiously bound to the zealous and public advocacy of this righteous cause. Without attempting to judge in these matters, we will venture respectfully and kindly to express our conviction, that this state of feeling arises as much from pride and prejudice on the one hand, as from indiscretion or impropriety on the other; and that at any rate the weakness or the violence of others can form no valid excuse for our own inactivity in a righteous cause; it ought rather to induce us to throw into every truly good and benevolent work, the protective influence of our own example. Christianity consists not in a mere profession of doctrines; it is an active and benevolent principle, a principle of love to God and man, which should ever prompt us to imitate the example of its blessed Author, whose life was devoted to relieving distress, mitigating human suffering, and bursting the physical as well as the spiritual bonds of poor suffering humanity. Oh, then! may all party feeling, all personal prejudice, all suspicion of motives, be washed away by the spring of love and charity in each individual heart; and may these springs, uniting in one mighty stream of Christian benevolence, sweep from the soil of America, and from every country of the world, the blood-stained spot of slavery. In the cheering belief that the abolition of this nefarious system is pursuing its onward course throughout the world, this Convention would desire to encourage rather than rebuke, to commend rather than condemn; but we dare not conceal from you our painful conviction that in the United States of America more particularly, the progress of emancipation has been greatly retarded, and the oppression of the free

people of colour greatly aggravated, by the prevalence of that unjustifiable prejudice against colour to which slavery has given birth, and which is as opposed to the law of Christian love, as it is disgraceful to a people who boast of their perfect equality of civil and religious rights. We know how hard it is to withstand the influence of education, and the current of popular feeling; but we would entreat you to struggle against this baneful prejudice, and fervent are our desires that you may seek and obtain that assistance of Divine grace, which alone can subdue the pride of the human heart, and enable us to consider every country as our country, and every man our brother: and especially would we call upon you to extend that care over the education of your children, as will most effectually preserve the rising generation from imbibing prejudices so inimical to social happiness and national prosperity.

In conclusion, dear friends and brethren, fellow professors of the Christian faith, we commend the hapless slave to your Christian sympathy and aid; and oh! if the spirit that has escaped from his toil-worn frame, should meet our own at the judgment-seat of Christ, may we each in that solemn hour, when we shall need the shield of Infinite Mercy for ourselves, feel the cheering assurance that we have done all in our power to shield from oppression and suffering on earth, our fellow-candidates for the mercy of heaven.

(Signed)

London, June 20, 1843.

THOMAS CLARKSON,  
President of the Convention.

#### TEXAS.

THE following article, selected from the *Philanthropist*, an anti-slavery newspaper published at Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S., will be read with interest. It gives a correct idea of the topics which are agitating the public mind in Texas and the United States, &c., and to which we think it would be criminal to be indifferent. If any thing should grow out of this abolition feeling, said to exist at the present moment in that republic, the friends of human liberty and happiness throughout the world will rejoice. But we think it to be our duty to warn abolitionists on both sides of the Atlantic, that danger lies in the projected annexation of Texas to the United States, to secure which, the southern politicians and slaveholders will make a desperate effort during the next session of Congress; and against which it will be the duty of our American friends, as well as ourselves, to exert every means consistent with our principles and the mighty interests which are at stake:—

"Read the following from the *Louisville Journal*, whose principal editor is a New England man. In reference to the state of things in Texas, and the favourable disposition of many of the slaveholders to emancipation, he does not dare name a generous motive in connexion with their plans. Their policy is, first, to get paid for their slaves, then to glut their purses with the proceeds of their land sales!—

"It is thought to be necessary, to prevent emigration from the Republic, that something should be done in order to encourage persons to identify their fortunes with those of the State. In devising expedients to secure her present population, and to induce emigration from other countries to Texas, it was suggested that both these desiderata would be obtained if the present system of slavery was abolished. As far as we are enlightened as to the means to be employed for the abrogation of slavery, they are as follows:—It is presumed, on good authority, that if Texas does agree to abolish slavery, a loan of 5,000,000 dollars can be negotiated in Great Britain, redeemable in lands belonging to the Republic. The number of slaves in Texas is 25,000, and the money raised by loan would enable the Government to pay their owners two hundred dollars for each slave. This compensation, it is believed, would fully satisfy the holders of slaves; and, as the white population is four times as great, the same inconveniences would not result as in the slave states of this Union, where the same disparity in favour of the whites does not exist. It is supposed that the liberated blacks could be employed in the tillage of the earth, with more profit to both races, and that the objections which now restrain emigration to the country would be removed.

"This project is not one of moral, but of financial abolition. It is, in every sense of the word, a mere pocket calculation. The present slaveholders own immense tracts of land, and the compensation they would receive for their slaves would enable them to purchase a great deal more; all which, in the event of the emigration expected as a consequence of emancipation, would come into market and glut the purses of the proprietors."

"But, aside from the selfishness that affects honesty only when it finds robbery a losing concern, we cannot but rejoice at the agitation which has evidently commenced in Texas. The Galveston correspondent of the *New Orleans Bee*, whose letter appeared in that paper of May 16th, says,—

"I affirm to you, in the most solemn manner, and on my word as a gentleman, that at this moment the advocates of the policy of emancipation are boldly traversing the country, and with, to me, unanticipated success. I feel deeply distressed to think that it is so; but how can I believe otherwise, when I see in the ranks, talent, character, and influence of the first order in the country?"

"The *Bee* of the 18th gives a quotation from a letter which, it says, is 'now before us, written by a gentleman who has held high places in the republic':—

"How easy would it be," he says, "for the Government of Great Britain, through her *Abolition Society in London*, to introduce a population sufficient, under the colonization contract, now existing in Texas, to pass a law abolishing slavery, or change the features of our constitution, by forbidding it longer license. Our naturalization laws require only six months' residence to entitle a foreigner to the full exercise of the elective franchise, &c."

"Of course, the *Bee* is horror-stricken at this project. It declares that, 'The establishment of an Abolition Republic upon the southern boundary of the United States, would be such a stride in the career of negrophilism, that emancipation in all the islands of the gulf would not

equal. The probable consequence of such a consummation upon the only nation capable of resisting the armies and navies of Albion—whose existence as a sovereign power is involved in the inviolability of southern institutions, cannot have escaped the keen and curious eyes of British politicians, and the circumstances that have made Texas accessible to the approaches of foreign intrigues, are as well known in London as to the people of this hemisphere.'

"Whose existence as a sovereign power is involved in the inviolability of southern institutions—that is, in plain English, in the perpetuation of slavery!!

"But we must not forget Texas.

"Whilst these emigrants,' says the *Bee*, 'are being taken to Texas under the auspices of the London Abolition Society, the British emissaries are preaching abolition in the interior of Texas—endeavouring to persuade the large landholders that the abolition of slavery would cause such an influx of population from the Northern States of this confederacy and Europe, as would enhance real estate in an enormous and expeditious manner. The effect of these combined operations is to deter further emigration from the Southern States, whilst the country is filling up with northern and transatlantic abolitionists.'

"What a terrible calamity, that free working men, instead of slaves and slave-breeders should settle themselves in Texas! In connexion with these schemes of free colonization, the following from an exchange paper, possesses no small interest.

"The *Koln Zeitung* lately published a correspondence from Mentz, from which it appeared that persons of rank in Germany had joined together in the purchase of some extensive tracts of land in Texas, destined as settlements for German emigrants. This proves to be correct. Twenty-four princes, and other persons of high rank, among whom are the Duke of Nassau and the Prince of Linange, have commenced the execution of this grand scheme. The two agents who concluded the purchase of territories are already on their way back to Europe. Should this first experiment prove successful, the plan will speedily receive a greater extension.

"Again, however, we say, BEWARE! Whether this anti-slavery agitation in Texas amount to much or little, one thing is certain, the advocates of Texas will avail themselves of the opportunity, to unite the slave states in a desperate attempt at annexation in the next Congress or under the treaty-making power.—*Philanthropist (U. S.)* June 7.

To the foregoing article, we add a short extract from the *Richmond Whig*, a paper published in the capital of Virginia, U.S., and possessed of great influence there, which shows very significantly what we may expect to result from the present movement in Texas. It is as follows:—

"We care not who—whether British philanthropists or American fanatics (by which term, we presume, the editor designates the good and honest men who are labouring for Abolition) or both—are operating in Texas, and procuring the result of the eradication of slavery in that country, which, we believe, is *about to ensue*. We care not whether she is to continue slaveholding, or be made by British Abolition influence non-slaveholding. Let England, if she can, establish a controlling influence in Texas. As *friends of the human race*, we do not object to it. She cannot so much advance our interests as by conferring upon Texas the love of justice, of law, and liberty which so pre-eminently distinguish Great Britain."

### Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Tuesday, July 18, 1843.

#### ASHBURTON TREATY.

Mr. VERNON SMITH wished to know when an opportunity would be given to the house to discuss the Apprehension of Offenders (America) Bill. This measure was regarded with great alarm by the Anti-Slavery Societies, and ought to be fully discussed. The bill stood for a second reading to-night, but it was a matter of indifference to him, whether the discussion was taken at the present or at some future stage of the Bill.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM said,—With respect to the Apprehension of Offenders (America) Bill, his noble friend, the Secretary for the Colonies, intended to ask the House, at a later period of the evening, to consent to the second reading, on the understanding that the discussion should be taken on the principle of the bill, on the motion for the House going into committee.—Subsequently the bill was read a second time, and ordered to be committed.

### Foreign Intelligence.

PERNAMBUCO, May 30, 1843.—A few days since nine hundred slaves were landed at Itamaraca, thirty miles to the northward of Pernambuco, out of a cargo of one thousand shipped by the Brazilian slave-dealers from the opposite coast of Africa. There was no British cruiser in port to intercept her; but we are puzzled to imagine how she could have escaped the *Growler* British man-of-war steamer, which was spoken on the 25th May by the barque *Persian*, Captain Millman, cruising for slave-ships off Pernambuco, in lat.  $7^{\circ} 20'$  S., long.  $33^{\circ} 50'$  W. The commander of the *Growler* had notice that the *Semiramis* and another slaver were on the way to Itamaraca with slaves; and it is to be hoped she will be more fortunate in meeting with them. A steam-ship is unquestionably the best species of force to employ, in the suppression of this unhallowed traffic, as the slavers always endeavour to make for the variable space between the trade winds, where, by lightening the ship, (which is too often accomplished by throwing overboard the slaves,) she may avoid being taken in the fact of carrying them, or may be enabled to escape by smart sailing, when chased, or by a breeze, when becalmed and attacked by boats. The slaves brought into Itamaraca were publicly sold, and were chiefly purchased by slave-masters at Pernambuco and Olinda, where they were incorporated with other slaves belonging to the same master, and are let out to hire at an average of three-fourths of a

milrea per diem (present exchange, 1s. 7*½*d.) to the merchants and warehousemen of Pernambuco. They are employed by these latter in the conveyance of goods from the warehouse to the wharf for shipment, and vice versa. Heavy packages, such as cases of Brazil sugar, weighing a ton each, are forced through the streets upon rollers; lighter ones, such as bales of cotton, or woollen goods, are slung on poles, and carried on men's shoulders; and the wild and vociferous, but not plaintive or melancholy song by which this labour is invariably accompanied, enhances the singularity of the practice to the European observer. All that the slave can earn above the sum stipulated for by the owner, is retained for his own use. He is clothed, lodged, and fed at the expense of the master. It is scarcely necessary to add that the food (roasted maize and fruit) is of the cheapest kind, and the clothing (trowsers and shirt) of the coarsest material; but it would be difficult to point out a slave in torn or dilapidated clothes, or suffering from insufficient food. Slaves newly brought in are in a state of sullen apathy, but this rapidly subsides, and in the course of a few days they join with their companions in labour to the music of their monotonous songs. Beasts of burden are rarely employed in the transmission of goods, and hand trucks or barrows are as rarely seen, so that the labour is extremely heavy, however large the number of hands employed upon it. The chief mortality which occurs among the slaves is in their deportation from Africa. In the case which I have cited above, you will perceive that it is 10 per cent.; but this would be a low average, and the mortality is invariably enhanced to a fearful extent, if the voyage is prolonged. The dealers in flesh and blood, who follow this unholy trade, stow the unhappy slaves as close as the general shipper would stow cargo; and were it not for the power of endurance, which the God of nature has mercifully implanted in the human frame, but few of them would reach alive the scene of their captivity and suffering. How much longer will the cry of the injured African ascend to heaven, and the accusing angel have to record the cruelty of the civilized white man to his uncivilized black brother? It is needless to add that the local authorities in the pay of the Brazilian Government connive at the slave-trade, and receive their full share of profit from it. In a future letter I will furnish you with some careful statistics, deduced from actual observation of the average duration of life among the deported negroes, with such other information as may be useful to the British reader.—*Morning Chronicle*, July 17.

LISBON.—The following extract from the correspondence of the *Times* is gloomy. We have confidence, however, in the respected noblemen who originated the measure, and trust yet to see the great work accomplished:—

"I perceive by the annual report of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, that that estimable body indulges the pleasing delusion that 'the aspect of things is brighter' in Portugal, and that a project of law for the abolition of slavery in the Portuguese possessions within a period of three years, compensating the proprietors, has a probability of being carried through the Chambers. It is true that such a project was laid on the table of the Peers last year, but it was a portion of the customary deceit of the politicians of this country, who judged this piece of legislative humbug the readiest means of silencing the humane importunity of the delegates. With the departure of Mr. Alexander and his colleagues, the project, as intended from the first, was snuffed out by its pretended abettors. This base dissimulation will be almost incredible in England, but to a resident here it is a matter of course. The session just concluded has lasted, without a day's intermission, for six months, and not a word has been breathed on the subject. My prophecy concerning the disgraceful wind-up of the session having been literally verified, I take leave to venture another prediction, which is, that the Portuguese will never abolish slavery. They see the depreciation of property in our West Indian colonies, arising from the emancipation; they know that nothing can compete with the pound of flesh cut out by the driver's lash; and those who suppose any influence but self-interest in activity here, have little business in any world more real than that of Pangloss. When Lisbon lost sight of the *fortis Alexandri vultum*, the *simulantia* followed as closely as in Horace."

### Miscellanea.

THE SLAVE-TRADE.—The *Waterwitch*, 10, Lieut. C. Matson, arrived on Thursday. She sailed from the Cape on the 7th March, for a short cruise on the coast of Africa, where she arrived on the 12th; and on the 3rd April captured a vessel with 390 slaves on board. On the 27th April she boarded a brig, which was run on shore in chase, and deserted by her crew; and hove her off, the slaver's men keeping up a fire of musketry from some high cliffs immediately over head, by which one man was wounded. This last prize made the number of the *Waterwitch's* captures, during the period of her service on the coast, amount to 40, and from these vessels she released 2,922 slaves.—*Hampshire Telegraph*, July 1.

Papers have been received from the Cape of Good Hope, containing an account of the capture of a slaver at Quillemaire by Her Majesty's ship *Cleopatra*. The following is an extract of a letter dated Port Elizabeth (Algoa Bay), April 29:—“The *Cleopatra* arrived here on the 27th inst., having captured on the 12th of this month, off Quillemaire, the Brazilian brigantine *Progresso*, with 440 negroes on board, 50 of whom, with the prisoners, 13 in number, were taken out and put on board the *Cleopatra*, and the vessel, with the remainder of the negroes in charge of a prizemaster, sent to Simon's Bay.” Her Majesty's ship *Lily* captured three slaves a short time since off the same place, and sent two of them into Simon's Bay, and the other she chased ashore and destroyed.—*Times*, July 18.